

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 21

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR MANDATORY YEARLY PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE MATHEMATICS  
AND SCIENCE TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.

WHEREAS, education is the key to the twenty-first century,  
both in terms of economic prosperity and personal achievement;  
and

WHEREAS, today's new economy is knowledge-based,  
entrepreneurial and globally competitive to an extent that was  
almost unimaginable even a decade ago, yet New Mexico students  
lag significantly in most measures of elementary and secondary  
academic success, thus imperiling both their individual  
prospects and those of the state; and

WHEREAS, a competitive, technically capable work force is  
essential to New Mexico's economic future, and a reasonable

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1 level of mathematics and science awareness among its population  
2 is an ever more important part of good civic decision-making;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, a well-prepared, well-motivated, dynamic teaching  
5 corps and knowledgeable school administrators are the single  
6 most important components to providing public kindergarten  
7 through twelfth grade mathematics and science education at an  
8 outstanding level to New Mexico's young people; and

9 WHEREAS, it has been clearly demonstrated nationwide that  
10 a robust, yearly, sustained program of professional development  
11 is an essential component in creating and maintaining  
12 kindergarten through twelfth grade mathematics and science  
13 teachers and school administrators at a high level of  
14 preparedness in both matters of pedagogy and in up-to-date  
15 mathematics and science content; and

16 WHEREAS, such a program of professional development is  
17 one of the seven principal components of New Mexico Project  
18 2012, a proposal for comprehensive, transformational change in  
19 the way kindergarten through twelfth grade mathematics and  
20 science education is carried out in New Mexico's public  
21 schools; and

22 WHEREAS, the state already has provided approximately two  
23 million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) each year  
24 for 2007, 2008 and 2009 for the beginning phases of the  
25 reading, mathematics and science summer institutes professional

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1 development program;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express its support for a thorough  
4 study of the positive impacts to be expected when establishing  
5 such a program of mandatory professional development for  
6 kindergarten through twelfth grade mathematics and science  
7 teachers and school administrators; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education  
9 department be requested to have the study conducted under the  
10 guidance of its mathematics and science bureau; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a proposed  
12 time line for implementing such a program of mandatory  
13 professional development, an estimate of the associated costs  
14 as the program moves from initial implementation to final  
15 realization and an evaluation of how the program would affect,  
16 and be affected by, other aspects of the academic year that  
17 must be given equal consideration, such as the requirement for  
18 one hundred eighty days of classroom instruction; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the governor, the public education department,  
21 the legislative education study committee and the coalition of  
22 school administrators for appropriate distribution.